Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON. OVIP (NAM DUCK WOO)
SUBJECT: FEEDBACK ON DPM NAM'S VISIT

REF: SEOUL 5266

- 1. ECON COUNSELOR HAS NOW DISCUSSED NAM VISIT WITH TWO MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY. THE OVERALL REACTION WAS VERY POSITIVE.
- 2. BOTH CONCLUDED THAT NAM'S SPEECH TO THE WESTERN GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE HAD BEEN VERY WELL RECEIVED. THE PARTY WAS SURPRISED AT THE HIGH DEGREE OF INTEREST IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE, PARTICULARLY FROM SUCH INLAND STATES AS WYMOING. THEY ALSO COMMENTED VERY FAVORABLY ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE'S SPEECH AND ON HIS EFFECTIVE HANDLING OF HARD QUESTIONING FROM THE GOVERNOR OF NEVADA.
- 3. BOTH WERE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THEIR RECEPTION IN WASHINGTON. THE MEETING WITH EXIM GOVERNOR MOORE WAS OBVIOUSLY HAPPY AND RECEIVED TOP BILLING IN THE KOREAN PRESS WHICH NOTED APPROVAL (PRESUMABLY IN PRINCIPLE) OF LOANS TO BUY EQUIPMENT FOR KAIS AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS. EXIM INTEREST IN POSSIBLE LOANS FOR NUCLEAR 7 AND 8, AIRCRAFT, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND HOTELS WAS ALSO MENTIONED.

4. THE MEETING WITH SECRETARY BERGLAND ALSO REPORTEDLY WENT WELL, WITH IMPRESSION CONVEYED OF GENUINE USDA INTEREST IN HELPING ROKG WITH ITS FINANCING PROBLEMS PRIMARILY THROUGH CCC CREDITS FOR THE NEAR TERM FUTURE. THEY UNDERSTAND 10 YEAR CREDITS ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION BY

CONGRESS AND THAT THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT VIEWS ABOUT WHAT SHOULD BE DONE. HENCE, THEY UNDERSTAND THAT IT WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE A PROGRAM WILL BE READY AND THAT IT WILL HAVE TO BE SEPERATE FROM THE CCC PROGRAM, SINCE THE LATTER IS STRICTLY COMMERCIAL. THIS OVERALL FAVORABLE IMPRESSION HAS GONE SOME WAY, WE BELIEVE, TOWARD OFFSETTING THE HOUSE NEGATIVE VOTE ON 1979 APPROPRIATIONS FOR PL 480 FOR KOREA. DESPITE HEADLINES SAYING KOREA MUST DIVERSIFY ITS AGRICULTURAL IPORT SOURCES AND PRESSURES FROM THE CANADIANS, WE THINK THE ROKG WILL WAIT AND SEE.

5. THE MEETING WITH SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL, BOTH SAID, WAS CONCERNED MAINLY WITH HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE PROBLEMS THIS GAVE THE IFI APPROPRIATIONS/CONGRESS. ONE OBWERVER NOTED THAT NAM HAD RESPONDED WITH THE "PARTY LINE" THAT THERE WAS NO REAL PROBLEM IN KOREA. THE OTHER, HOWEVER, OBSERVED THAT NAM HAD BEEN EMBARRASSED AND THAT THE PRESENCE OF ROKG AMBASSADOR KIM HAD MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO SPEAK MORE FORTHRIGHTLY, TO REFLECT HIS OWN BELIEFS AND CONCERNS.

6. BOTH OBSERVED THAT OECD HAD BEEN DISCUSSED PRIMARILY WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY BERGSTEN. THEY CAME AWAY WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT THE U.S. WANTED KOREA IN (THAT WITHOUT COOPERATION FROM KOREA AND THE OTHER NIC'S, THE WORLD TRADING PROBLEM COULD NOT BE SOLVED). HOWEVER, NAM HAD MADE IT CLEAR THE ROKG WAS READY BUT NO PRESSING AND WOULD ULTIMATELY CONFIDENTIAL

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WANT AN INVITATION. IN THE MEANTIME, IT WOULD WORK TO PREPARE ITSELF TO JOIN AND WAS PREPARED TO TAKE WHATEVER MEASURES WERE REQUIRED. THEY REPORT ASST. SECRETARY BERGSTEN INDICATED THE USG WAS READY TO DISCUSS MODALITIES (E.G., OBSERVER, ASSOCIATE MEMBER, OR FULL MEMBER STATUS) OF ASSOCIATION PRIVATELY SINCE EUROPEANS MAY ARGUE AND OPPOSE KOREAN PARTICIPATION, OSTENSIBLY BECUASE OF POLITICAL DIFFERENCES.

7. BOTH SAID THAT NO MENTION WAS MADE OF PERIODIC MEETINGS TO CARRY ON THE DIALOGUE, AS SUGGESTED IN REF. A.

8. OVERALL, WE WOULD ASSESS THE VISIT A GREAT SUCCESS, SINCE THE KOREANS WERE VERY PLEASED WITH THEIR RECEPTION AND THE AIR HAS BEEN CLEARED ON A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS. STERN

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